taken against the authorities/officials responsible for this scandal;

(e) whether Government propose to conduct a CBI inquiry into this illegal sale; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of quarters constructed by each steel plant for the low income group of employees after 31-3-1984 upto 31-3-1987 is as follows:—

Plant	Mines	Township	Total
Durgapur Steel Plant	156	—	156
Bhilai Steel Plant	6	2048	2054
Rourkela Steel Plant	191	100	291
Bokaro Steel Plant	276	2360	2636
IISCO	Nil	264	264

In the construction of these houses, use was made of the steel received under the Grant-in-Aid Programme from Japan as well as of steel produced in the steel plants themselves.

(c) IISCO were allocated 3762 tonnes of the material received from Japan. IISCO disposed of 3040 tonnes by sale to the Government Departments, Public Sector Companies priority customers of Joint Plant Committee and customers who had registered their demand at the stockyards.

(d) to (f) Government have already conducted an enquiry into the use of this material. On the basis of this enquiry SAIL have been asked to fix the responsibility for diversion of the steel and to initiate action against those responsible. SAIL have also been directed to replenish the diverted quantities by its production and to utilise them for the purpose originally stipulated. CBI enquiry does not appear to be necessary.

Public Distribution System in Andhra Pradesh

*307. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had recently inspected the working of the public distribution system in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are his observations on the working of the system; and

(c) whether Government have advised other State Governments to follow the example of Andhra Pradesh in regard to the distribution of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) I have visited some States including Andhra Pradesh recently. During these visits, I had discussions with the representatives of State Governments, trade and industry, voluntary organisations working in the field of consumer protection etc. In the discussions, I reviewed the functioning of the public distribution system and the availability and prices of essential commodities.

(b) The system is working well, like in some other States. I made some suggestions for improving the system.

(c) Good aspects as and when noticed in the functioning of the public distribution system of various States, are brought to the notice of

others so that they could benefit from each others experience.

Suggestions for changes in the CCIS

*310. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered official committee has suggested far reaching changes in the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS);

(b) if so, what are the details of the changes suggested therein;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to these suggestions; and

(d) whether Government propose to implement the suggestions; if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (d) A Group under the Chairmanship of an Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been constituted to undertake an indepth study and critical review of the functioning of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). The Group has so far held a series of meetings and is considering all aspects of the CCIS. The Group has not yet submitted its report to the Government.

Steps to increase oilseed production

*312. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steps taken by Government to increase the oilseeds production in view of the prevailing drought conditions in various parts of the country and since the dry land is more useful for oilseeds production;

(b) what is the likely impact of the huge quantity of oil and oilseeds imports during the current year on the internal production and prices of oils and oilseeds;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from oilseed growers/oil producers in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to dispel their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Various measures taken to increase the production of oilseeds are given below:-

(i) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and the Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP) are in operation in important oilseeds growing States for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country during the year 1987-88. Under these projects, financial assistance is provided on various critical inputs to induce the farmers to take up the cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale mostly in dry land areas.

(ii) State level cooperative oilseeds growers' federation have been formed in some States under the project for restructuring of Edible Oils and Oilseeds Production and marketing through National Dairy Development Board. Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices for oilseeds at high levels.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds. A technology mission on oilseeds has been set-up.

(iv) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseeds crop like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities